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even the movables of the concern after the closure. What action have the Government taken in the matter? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' I am afraid the contention of the hon. Member is rather surprising. His suggestion is that the Government should take action in respect of any private concern on the report of a labour leader that the mill is likely to close down and that the workers are likely to lose their jobs. I suggest in all fairness that the mill must close down before any action can be taken by the Government. The mill involved in this particular case is a private mill. There is nothing to prevent the management from floating a loan in the open market and re-starting the mill.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' On a point of personal explanation, Sir. To see that they get their wages, the workers resorted to picketing against the removal of the articles belonging to the mill. Not only did the Government not help the workers, but they sent their Police, arrested the workers who picketed and removed them to Police stations.''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' I am not aware of these facts. I think the question of allegation against the Police must be addressed to some other Hon. Colleague in the Cabinet.''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—'' When the management owes to the workers more than two lakhs of rupees as arrears of wages, is it not an open violation of the Payment of Wages Act? May I know from the Hon. Minister for Labour what action he is going to take to give relief for the 1,300 unemployed workers? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' I am sure the workers have legal remedies in the matter of recovering their wages, apart from Government interference. So far as the opening of gruel centres is concerned, the question must be addressed to the Hon. Revenue Minister.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' It has become more a cross-examination than a question. I pass on to the next question.''

Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited.

* 55 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Board of Directors of the Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited, Malabar, regarding the reopening of the factory; and

(*b*) if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—'' (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir. The Government have, however, received a scheme for the reopening of the factory from Sri C. P. Karunakara Menon and three others and it is under their consideration.''

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Inasmuch as the closure in this case is due to the action taken by the Government and therefore the Government are responsible for it, will they expedite the consideration of the matter? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The responsibility for the closure is more that of the management than that of the Government. The Government advanced a loan of Rupees 1,75,000. The Company's management failed to utilize this amount for the purpose for which it was sanctioned and defaulted in the repayment of the instalment of the loan. I hope the hon. Member will not be of the opinion that the Government were responsible for the closure of this factory."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" I suppose the Government are aware that there was an awful amount of mismanagement and that there was a fire and number of labour disputes in the factory. Have the Government instituted a thorough-going enquiry and an independent audit of the accounts of the factory? '

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government got the accounts audited and made the audit report available to the Board of Management. Those who are interested in restarting the factory may have a look at it. However much we may sympathise with the factory, the fact remains that the management did not repay the instalment and the Government have to be careful about public money."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" When the institution defaulted in the payment, what steps did the Government, who are so anxious about public money, take to recover the money from the time of the default up till now? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The loan of Rupees 1,75,000 given to this institution under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act was not utilized properly. Proceedings were instituted and the properties of the Company are now under attachment under the Revenue Recovery Act. In order to bring the assets of the Company to sale in public auction in one lot, a three months' notice required under clause 5 (3) of the mortgage deed was given. The three months' period expired on 5th November 1953. Government thought it wise to bring the properties to auction after 5th November 1953. One of the creditors of the Company had, in the meanwhile, filed a petition in the High Court for liquidating the Company. The liquidation petition has, however, since been dismissed as withdrawn. The creditors and shareholders of the Company met at a conference on 29th November 1953 and submitted a memorandum to the Government. It was stated therein that Sri C. P. Karunakara Menon and others whom the General Body has proposed for the new Board of Management were prepared to re-open the factory, provided they were

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able to collect the necessary funds. Government have agreed to this proposal and temporarily stayed further action. The proposals of the new Management are under examination."

10-30 a.m. SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" When did the Government receive intimation of the closure of the metal industry? How long will the Government take to come to a decision on this point? Will the Government also give the details of the scheme submitted to them? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The scheme was submitted on the 20th of February 1954. It is under active examination. I do not have the details with me now. If the hon. Member were to put a separate question, I might be able to answer in detail."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" May I know how many workers had been affected by the closure of the metal industry? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have no information on hand. I would request the hon. Member to put a separate question."

SRI A. APPU :—" May I know whether Sri Karunakara Menon did undertake to repay the loan to Government or any portion of it? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I think, Sir, they wanted a time of three years for the repayment of arrears of loan. I have no further details on hand. I might be able to answer in detail if a separate question is put."

SRI KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE :—" Did Mr. C. P. Karunakara Menon and other gentlemen come forward with a proposal for starting the company again? Have they made any suggestions for the repayment of the dues from the company to Government? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As I said they did make an offer. They requested three years time to repay the dues to Government. That is what was suggested to us."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" My question was whether the company defaulted in the payment of its dues to Government because I am charging the Government with criminal negligence of their duty."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not have the details with me now."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Government have advanced similar loans to a number of companies. Is there any machinery with the Government by which the Government is kept informed of how these factories are working? "

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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. The Director of Industries inspects many of these factories. He reports to Government whenever there is default in payment of dues to Government by the company. We take action only then. Wherever there has been a default in payment of dues for which the reason given by the company is unreasonable, suitable action is taken by Government against the company concerned."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" $1\frac{1}{4}$ லட்சம் ரூபாய் அந்தக் கம்பெனிக்குச் சர்க்கார் கடன் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். எந்தக் காரணத்திற்காக அந்தக் கடன் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதோ அந்தக் காரணத்திற்காக அதை அந்தக் கம்பெனி உபயோகப்படுத்தவில்லை என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார். இன்னும் அந்தக் கம்பெனியின் தற்கால நிலையையும் சொன்னார். அதைச் சமாளிப்பதற்கு, அந்தக் கம்பெனியை சர்க்காரே எடுத்துக் கொண்டு நடத்துவதற்கு யோசனை செய்யக் கூடாதா ?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I feel it is not the duty of Government to take over the management of all losing concerns."

Women's welfare organizations.

* 56 *Q.*—SRI D. DASARATHAN (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many women's welfare organizations were started in the State during the year 1953; and

(*b*) how many of them were subsidized by the Government and their particulars?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Prohibition) :—" (*a*) Eight.

" (*b*) Two. A consolidated grant of Rs. 35 per mensem per head for 60 women to cover boarding charges, tuition fees and other miscellaneous expenditure is given to the Service Home run by the Kasturba Gandhi Trust at Gandhigram, Madurai.

A grant of Rs. 8 per mensem per head is given for 15 inmates of the Abhayashram Section of the Tiruchi Seva Sangham, Tiruchirappalli, with effect from 1st January 1954."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" What are the districts in which these organizations are functioning? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" As I said, these organizations are working in eight districts in the State. They were started during the year 1953."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member wants to know the names of districts in which these organizations are situated."

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" I will read out the names of the districts in which these organizations are running, viz., North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Salem, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Malabar and South Kanara."